

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00908 251519Z
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 L-03 /055 W
-----251707Z 109488 /43

R 251202Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 4541
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA
USLO RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
USDOC WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS MANAMA 908

DEPT PLEASE PASS AID/SER/CFS

USDOC FOR CAGNE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : EAID, TGEN, NASA, BA
SUBJECT : COUNTRY-FINANCED SERVICES -- LANDSAT TEAM IN BAHRAIN

1. AS SCHEDULED, LANDSAT TEAM OF GOEDEKE, STRICKLAND AND DAVIDSON MADE NINETY-MINUTE PRESENTATION TO SMALL TARGET AUDIENCE APRIL 25. PRESENT AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE BRIEFING SESSION WERE: MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIES (YUSUF AL-SHIRAWI), MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS/TRANSPORTATION (IBRAHIM HUMAIDAN), ASST. UNDERSECRETARY FOR OIL AND INDUSTRIES (SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA), ASST. UNDERSECRETARY FOR CIVIL AVIATION (SHAIKH ISA BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA) AND HIS DEPUTY (P. EAVES).
 2. MINISTER SHIRAWI SUMMARIZED IMMEDIATE GOB INTEREST IN THE TECHNOLOGY AS FOLLOWS: HE WAS INTRIGUED BY POSSIBILITY OF APPLYING LANDSAT TECHNOLOGY TO ENGINEERING QUESTIONS (WATER DEPTH, TIDAL FLOWS, SUBTERRANEAN STRUCTURE OF SOILS, ETC.) RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF BAHRAIN/SAUDI ARABIA CAUSEWAY.
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THIS IS A MATTER OF SOME URGENCY AS THE TENDERS FOR THE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION WORK (EARTHFILL CAUSEWAY WITH FOUR BRIDGES) ARE EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. SAUDI NEGOTIATING TEAM IS EXPECTED IN BAHRAIN NEXT WEEK FOR FURTHER TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF DANISH CONSULTANTS. IN THE LONGER TERM, SHIRAWI EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE APPLICATION OF LANDSAT TECHNOLOGY TO REGIONAL PROBLEMS OF METEOROLOGY

(WEATHER PREDICTION, IN PARTICULAR) AND FISHING.

3. COMMENT: THE TEAM UNDERTOOK TO SUPPLY EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION REGARDING DATA IN HAND, PROBABLY DATING TO 1973, ON THE BAHRAIN/SAUDI ARABIA AREA WHICH WILL BE LINKED TO THE CAUSEWAY. THIS INFORMATION MIGHT BE DEVELOPED BY PRIVATE US FIRM TO GET ITSELF INVOLVED IN A CONSULTANCY ROLE BEFORE THE FINAL TENDERS ARE PREPARED AS WELL AS PERHAPS SERVING AS FOOT IN THE DOOR FOR ONE OF THE SEVERAL US FIRMS INTERESTED IN BIDDING ON THE CAUSEWAY TENDER. SHIRAWI AND COLLEAGUES IMPRESSED BY TEAM'S MENTION OF LANDSAT DATA WHICH LED TO CORRECTION OF MASSIVE ENGINEERING ERROR IN NEW HARBOR BEING BUILT IN FAR EAST. THEY WONDERED WHETHER SUCH DATA MIGHT ALSO REVEAL ERRORS IN CAUSEWAY PLANNING, PARTICULARLY IN PLACEMENT OF BRIDGES.

4. AT ANY RATE, AMBASSADOR IS COMMITTED TO INFORMING SHIRAWI ASAP OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE INFORMATION REGARDING THE AREA IN QUESTION. PLEASE ADVISE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE SAUDI TEAM EARLY NEXT WEEK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFINGS, LANDSAT, SATELLITES, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANAMA00908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770143-1012
Format: TEL
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770423/aaaaatpv.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e637969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2706603
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNTRY-FINANCED SERVICES -- LANDSAT TEAM IN BAHRAIN
TAGS: EAID, TGEN, BA, NASA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e637969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009